

A2
11-6-00
6. (Amended) The thermoplastic molding composition as recited in Claim 5 wherein said thermoplastic material is selected from the group consisting of [polyethylent] polyethylene, polyester, and polypropylene/.

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10. (Amended) The thermoplastic molding composition as recited in Claim 1 wherein said rice hull material is selected from the group consisting of whole rice hulls and [are substituted for the] rice hull particulates.

12. (Amended) A method of making a thermoplastic molding composition, comprising the steps of:

- A4
- a. grinding rice hulls to a predetermined particle size to form rice hull powder;
 - b. admixing said rice hull powder with sodium peroxide;
 - c. washing said rice hull powder to remove said sodium peroxide to a predetermined level to provide a pretreated rice hull powder containing sodium peroxide;
 - d. drying said pretreated rice hull powder; and
 - e. mixing said pretreated rice hull powder with a thermoplastic resin and thermoplastic material to form a homogeneous mixture.

13. The method as recited in Claim 12 wherein said pretreated rice hull [particulates contain] powder contains a residue of sodium peroxide in the amount of about 1 to 7 percent by weight.

[Cancel Claim 22